LPG customers enrolled with the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are being met, by and large, in full.

(b) to (d) At present, LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country. As on 1.10.2001, the LPG customer population with OMCs was about 607 lakhs in the country including about 43 lakh in rural areas.

**Decision of OPEC to reduce production**

1617. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of OPEC to reduce production of oil by 10 lakh tons;

(b) if so, what impact it will have on our country; and

(c) whether Government have enough stock of petroleum products to meet such exigencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As per the published reports, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in its meeting held in Vienna on 14.11.2001, decided to cut production by 1.5 million barrels per day *with effect from* 1st January 2002, subject to a firm commitment from non-OPEC oil producers to cut their production by 500,000 barrels per day. However, no official communication has been received to this effect.

(b) The decision has not so far affected the oil supplies or the prices of crude oil and petroleum products.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Registration of orders through Internet**

1618. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum companies are booking orders of their customers through Internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether progressively automated and interactive systems for booking refills have started; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have started On-line customer service in a bid to enhance customers relationships on pilot basis in some cities. Similarly, some of the LPG distributors of these companies are also extending refill booking facility through Interactive Voice Recording System (IVRS) to their customers.

**Supply of small size cylinders**

†1619. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions to all prime oil companies of the country to supply 5 Kg. gas cylinders in order to provide LPG to economically weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of such States wherein Government propose to introduce this scheme; and

(d) whether Government have issued any guidelines for the supply of these cylinders; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Government have given 'in-principle' approval to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to market 5 Kg LPG cylinders for domestic purpose. The sale of small size cylinders for domestic purpose would be initiated after the development of necessary infrastructure for the purpose.

**Exploration of Hydrocarbon at K.G. Basin**

1620. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cairn Energy of UK has made another hydrocarbon discovery in Krishna-Godavari basin in Andhra Pradesh; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.